

Papers receive by me

Boston Daily Advocate      6 per week, mornings

Free Press                      1 Wednesday

Evening Gazette              1 Monday

N England Farmer      1 Tuesday morn  
9

## Journal

Monday 2 January 1832 left home at Noon and proceeded to Athol and put up at Youngs.

Tuesday 3—Proceeded to Boston on the Stage—arrived about 7 oclock at the Williams' Paid for passage 3 Dollars

Wednesday 4—Legislature assembled at 10 oclock AM Chose Luther S Cushing Clark of the house and William B Calhoun Speaker a number of petitions presented Lathrop votes 77

Thursday 5. Met at 10 oclock AM. A number of petitions presented for alteration in the 3d Article of the Bill of Rights and submitted to a special Committee. Furnished Adiline 3 dollars for purchasing calico-Bot a cain 2/3; and paper quills &c 67 cents

The House is very numerous-not much short of 500, and more than can find seats in the Representatives Room. A monstrous representation.

In the Senate William Thorndike  
of Essex chosen President, and Charles  
Calhoun Clarke unanimously.

This day the weather more moderate  
the snow begins to thaw and cloud,  
indicate rain—hope the weather  
will be more warm very slippery  
walking.

By a resolve of the House each mem  
ber is intitled to receive 9 newspapers  
per week  
during the sitting of the Legislature  
and I have entered my name for  
the Boston Daily Advocate and  
Clapp's Evening Gazette, a weekly  
paper, making 7 papers per week.  
The Advocate is edited by B.F. Hal  
let an able Editor and is truly  
Antimasonic. I hope it will open  
the eyes of the people on masonry.

Arthurs Map-Mr. Pendleton to  
strike off 600 maps; he to keep the stone  
in reserve to strike off as many more as  
may be wanted. Leave with Mr. Pendle

ton say 30 or 40 for sale taking a receipt for the same. To sell at 1 Dollar. A proof sheet to be ready next week or week after next; and to be forwarded to Arthur after I have convinced it, with the original and returned to me as soon as possible.

The copy right to be secured according to Laws. Show the proof to the Representatives of New Salem, Wendell, Ashfield & Colrairie for them to give names to Brooks, mills, Mountains and ponds &c, if they can do it. Present a Map to each of the following persons Robert William, Henry Williams, M Harts horn and one for Commonwealth.

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Filled the vacant places of Senators in the several Districts. In Franklin Dr. Smith of Ashfield was elected by a large plurality. Col. Londey had 101 votes probably antimasonic. No regard was had to the votes of the people of the County; but Smith being the National Republican Candidate must be the man. The people I had well see to this at a future election Mr. Soltonstall was elected in Essex but Turner of Plymouth was rejected.

The absurdity of the present representation in respect to numbers, appears to me very striking  
 To see a Regiment of men convened to transact the business of the state, a number which renders it extremely difficult even to find seats, and then without any consequences for their business, evinces a total want of discernment in our people in forming a rational system of Government.  
 I hope for a reduction in the numbers as soon as possible. But among so many wise people it is doubtful whether this can be effected.

Arthur Starts for home tomorrow morning, in the Petersham stage. Left me 60 Dollars for defraying the expense of his map. See Pendleton's memo in my possession. The lettering of the map began this day the 6<sup>th</sup>. Probably expense

600 at 4 Dollars	-----	\$24
Lettering about	----	24
Paper say		24
Use of stone	-----	<u>3</u>
		<u>75.</u>

Mr. Eddy the artist to letter promises to do it well.

In the House this day, a disposition was evinced by some members to dispense with a Chaplain; but a majority was for keeping up the custom. How far the services of a Chaplain may be important in a body like our Legislature is a question of doubtful solution. May no doubt consider it of importance, and suppose the blessing of Providence is not to be expected without asking for its favors. Others treat the practice with indifference, and believe that religious services are here misplaced. In the minds of reflecting men religious impressions are always present-I mean I ~~hope~~ religious impressions which tend to render us rational beings, without an enthusiasm which makes us the bland dupes of ~~of~~ unimaginary zeal that has no foundation in nature.

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> In joint Convention of the two houses the Gov. & Lt. Governor were qualified for the discharge of their offices. Edward D. Bangs was chosen Secretary of the Commonwealth Hezekiah Barnard Treasurer of Commonwealth and John C. Gray, William Ferson, Luke Fiske, Joseph Bowman, Elijah Swift, Henry Hubbard

Josiah J. Fiske, Howard Lathrop and Patrick Bories were chosen Counsellors. Several petitions were presented one by Henry Williams of Boston, praying for an alteration in the land laws. Visited Pen dleton Lithographic office; Arthurs map lettering—looks well. Found Professor Hitchcock, Geological map preparing for publication, and Tuckers light of Nature for sale at Carters and Hundus. 4 Vol. at 9 Dollars. They have Col. Willets Journal for 1 Dollar a Book I may want. The day more warm some cloudy—ways very slippery and extremely difficult for traveling. This day Rules and Regulations for the House reported and adopted.

Sunday 8. Attended meeting at Dr. Lowells Church. A Mr. Putnam of Roxbury preached upon Sobermindedness. He laid it down that men of well balanced minds would Seldom indulge in levity, and frivolity; but did not enjoyment of himself please. A rational discourse. Day cloudy & cold. Rain in the Night

Monday 9: Committees appointed on various subjects; on one of which I am placed. Governor message received and read from the Chair.—visited the State Library. A considerable collection of Books, those of a miscellaneous nature may be drawn out. By the US Laws I find that to secure a copy right of a map, a printed title must be deposited in the Clerks office of the District Court before publication; and within two months from the date thereof, a copy of the Record to be published in one or more papers of the U States; and within 6 months of the publication a map to be sent to the Secretarys office to be presented in said office. John W Davis Clarke of said District Court; office in the old Court house Court Street.

Saw Col. Merrick at Merchants House and many other old friends. Mr. Hallit gave us a detail of the shufflings of masons before the Committee of Rhode Island. Thinks the Committee will report as favorably as possibly on Masonry. But says he shall give us in his paper a full account as soon

as

proper. The Rhode Island Legislature assembles within a few days, and will review the report.

Certificate to be inserted on Arthurs map to secure the copy "Entered according to the act of Congress the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_ 1832, by AWH of the State of Massachusetts"

A "printer copy of the title" what is this? Will an impression from the stone be so considered? I think it will. This day directed the Free Press to be sent to me at the State House, as a member.

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> Petition presented on various subjects, and some debate on the appointment of an assistant Clerk, but no very important business transacted.

Recd Letter from home-all well.

Afternoon a meeting antimasonic members from the County of Bristol, recommended that the members of Legislature return home to attend the election of member of Congress next Monday General Lincoln in the Chair. Some intelligent members made appropriate remarks. From the efforts which have been made by the fraternity, under the false name

of national Republicans which is now extensively applied to their party I am apprehensive that Hodges will be elected. His declaration concerning the oath of the Royal arch mason, will have an effect upon the blind part of the electors; and the declaration of the Boston Masons will have the same effect. The blindness of the people is astonishing, and the power of masonry seems to have been truly predicted by Branard. But we must remove the deception by developing facts to the public. Much has been anticipated from the new dayly, but it has thus far proceeded with such caution that its effect has been limited. It's though by some that this is the best course to pursue; but of this I have some doubts. Let facts appear to the people and if they will not open their eyes to the evils of masonry so mote it be.

Wednesday 11 No very important business this day. The messenger is ordered to supply the members with all the printed documents and I suppose we have them in abundance. Tomorrow I

am to sit on a Committee in Lobby No 7  
over the Land Office at 3 oclock P.M.  
Our sittings are short from 10 AM to 1  
or two PM might not the business be  
pushed on with more rapidity? Most  
certainly with a smaller number it could.  
This day last the contents of the town of  
Leyden from Newcombes map of the town,  
and found it to be 11580 acres including  
ponds &c probably not very accurate.

Thursday 12, No very important  
business. Afternoon sat on a Committee to  
examine the expediency of Altering or  
abolishing the 9<sup>th</sup> article of the Con  
stitution, relating to amendments. The  
Committee of whom Mr. Ruggle of Bar  
re is chairman, adjourned to meet  
at the call of said Chairman  
This day commenced taking the New  
England farmer as a member of the  
house. Making my 9 papers. Major  
D Stebbin and Co. D Wright convened  
at Boston. Co. C.E. Billings joined us  
this day.

I have amused myself in perusing Capt. Franklin's Expedition to the Shore of the polar sea, an entertaining work for the conquest into Nature. His object was to trace and survey the coast from Coppermine River to Icy cape on the NW of America, and he succeeded in examining the coast from Long 109° to 149°h; and by the exertion of Capt. Beechy, in his Majestic ship the Blossom, who proceeded to icy cape by the Pacific & who surveyed the coast easterly to 156 a space of only 50 leagues remains to be explored west of Mackenzie River Franklin party proceeded to the polar sea by Mackenzie River where it divided into two parties, one proceeding east and the other west until obstructed by ice formed by the approach of winter. The whole party remained at a fort called after Franklin at Great Bear Lake about Lat 66 N. The variation of the needle towards Coppermine River was observed to be as high as 56° East The coast is inhabited by Esquomoux Indians who were found to be somewhat hostile, frequently plundering the boats. During the expedition, Capt Parry was exploring the land in a higher Lat. having penetrated by Baffins Bay. See his voyages. See Note A.

Friday 13 Some reports made and read  
once or twice, but little business done  
Adjourned at noon. Day pleasant.

The great number of members renders  
it impossible to perform business with precision  
It is a fact that it is done by a few, who  
understand the routine, while a great pro-  
portion are merely negative, and severely  
know what is doing in the house. The  
representation is a nuisance which must  
be removed from the Constitution.

Handed a small bundle containing  
Cotton thread, tape, & ball of binding  
to Major D. Stebbins for Mrs. Hoyt.  
Visited Drakes Book Store (Cornhill)  
where there is a great variety of 2d hand  
Books for sale, at reduced prices. Many  
ancient works are found among them.

Mr. Drake is preparing a new Edition of  
Hubbards Indian Wars, with copious notes  
and where possible pointing out  
the localities of the Indian battles  
& other exploits.

Received this day Cobbs Manual, con-  
taining information on the growth of  
Mulberry trees and the culture of silk,  
prepared under the direction of the State  
Government.

Saturday 14 The business not of much importance adjourned at 12 when I went to the Library room and examined the Books Johnson Life of General Green 2 Vol 4 to. contains plans of many Battles, among the rest of Germantown, Guildford & Eutaw & Cowpens. Met Gov. Lincoln in the Library and held some conversation respecting the boundary line between the State and Rhode Island—said he thought the line must be run—that Rhode Island was taking measures to bring the case before a Court of the US.

Purchased at Drake's 2d hand store, Ossians Poems in an 800 bol. pine 3/9 (in Boards) Dog cheap.

Visited Mr. Garrison Editor of the Liberator—appeared intelligent and respectable The ease of this man is singular. For his open opposition to slavery, he is looked to with vengeance by our Southern brethren. The Legislature of Georgia has recently offered a reward of 5000 dollars to any person who will deliver him in Georgia that State and this in a land where there is so much cry about republican Liberty. This is to offer

a reward for kidnapping and it appears to me our Legislature ought to take some Steps against his audacious proceedings Mr. Garrison has infringed no law of our State, nor of the U.S. yet he is vilified threatened and exposed to the violence of some daring kidnapper or assassin. I am informed that he is not without some apprehensions of outrage upon his person, and takes precautions for his safety Shall we any longer boast of the liberty and intelligence of the southern people? Slavery must come to an end, or liberty will disappear from our country. Notwithstanding this state of things many among us, as in the case of masonry, care very little about it. Indeed, there seems to be an unaccountable apathy enveloping the minds of our people in this country and a groveling people of selfishness seems to predominate. The noble principles of patriotism which aroused our fathers to a jealousy of their rights, in 1775, seems to be extinct; and a strife for office is the great leading [ ] that governs most of our people. Much is said

about education and the march of inlettered, but after all what is this boasted practice? our children are taught to read, write and cast up interest upon a note, read novels & newspapers, and go to market, and have the march of inlettered come to a halt. In short, the majority are just fitted to make tools for the aspiring demagogues, and to be tricked out of there rights. Can liberty be safe under such a state of things. At the same time, we have some men among us, of enlarged views, and who have made great progress in general knowledge, yet then are viewed with jealousy by the other class, and of course, are rejected from important stations. The truth of the position is no where more strikingly verified than in the present overgrown representation in our house of representatives. Have (say) 530 members an collected to transact the business of the little State of Massachusetts, a body unwidely in the extreme, and it is in my mind very doubtful whether it can be constitutionally

reduced to the proper number.

When I came to this assembly I supposed we should all have a hand in its measure, and that all would understand the nature and bearing of the measures brought before it. But this is not the case. The business is transacted by a few, and a Bill may pass the house and a majority know little about it. True the Senate are a check upon us, and can stop any wild measure we may attempt, not perhaps from great superiority of talents; but from the small number and greater conveniences for deliberation. In the house of representatives, a measure may be proposed of importance to a town or county and its members may feel an interest in it, and carry it through the usual forms, at the same time the other part of the house will feel little concern for it and scarcely know its progress.

In the house this day a motion was made for printing the memorials or petitions from several towns, on

the proposed alteration of the Constitution as respects the reduction of representatives but was rejected. To me the importance of printing the documents did not appear ~~important~~; for it is presumed that every representative already knows these sentiments of his constituents as relates to the subject. All memorials and petitions should, I think, be read in the house, but this is not the practice; they are submitted to committees who alone learn their contents. The practice ought to be amended.

Sunday 15. Remained at home, perusing the 1<sup>st</sup> Vol. of Murtre Brun's Geography the large edition by Wells & Lilly- This volume contains Mathematical, Physical and Political Geography, which are treated with ability. The author appears to be well acquainted with subjects of which he treats. All of the phenomena relating to the earth and atmosphere, are noticed; and the Book is very useful and entertaining to the philosophical mind. This Edition is much superior to that in our Library: it consists

consists of    Vols. thick 8 vo. The part relating to the [    ] of maps is 100<sup>th</sup> of the Attention of the geodesical survey  
In the evening Maj. D. Stebbins called and Col. D Wright called in, and spent some time accompanied by my Brother, they had attended the meeting of the Plinny and gave an account of the ridiculous performance, some of which bordered on blasphemy. Will man continue to be thus imposed on by enthusiastic pretenders to Christianity?

Monday 16—Several Bills read & passed to be engrossed. A motion made to make capitol the crime of poisoning with intent to murder

Received of Mr Pendleton, a proof sheet of Arthur's map, The shading appears rather heavy; but the graded fault is in the shading representing the waters, as I expected. The work is not equal to engraving but it is much cheaper it may come into practice.

This day we have a rumor that the cholera is in Boston, what foundation for this I cannot say; the disease is said to rage in Sunderland in England.

I know not but it may spread through the US and whether a remedy may be found we cannot say. The small pox has been arrested in its destructive course, and with out some substitute man may, perhaps, live to an age beyond that prescribed by Providence.

Mr. Hallet writes from Providence that the investigating committee of Rhod Island have not yet made their report to the Legislature, in session about the time he wrote. Should they neglect to report Mr. Hallet, who has the principle part of their proceedings, will lay them before the public; and he says nothing has as yet appeared so conclusive against masonry; though he thinks the committee will garble the report, and that there has been much management by a part of the Committee, to save masonry.

Tuesday 17 Little business, adjourned at 12. Rules and orders distributed. Afternoon delivered Arthurs proofsheet to Capt. Maynard of Buckland, to be left at Lathrops in Greenfield, on thursday night-at same time put a letter

into the post office to Arthur notifying him of the destination of the map; and also a letter to him by the Temples. We are anxiously waiting to hear from the election of members of Congress. in Bristol-fear Mr. Ruggles is not elected Since the publication of the Boston certificat, masonry seems to assume a bolder character than it has done They seem to think they have put an effectual blinder on the Jacks and that under the false name of National al Republicans, they shall finally put us down. But then oaths remain and still stare them in the face; and the investigation of masonry in Rhode Island, if it appears, must be to them a damper. Let us [    ] the oaths as given by [    ], and chal lenge them to deny them with their Signatures. This they dare not do. My Brother informs me that in a conversation with Mr. Soltonstall, he freely expressed his opinion of the dangerous nature of Masonry; and that he considered it very powerful in the County of Essex. I think he will ~~he will~~ ultimately become a firm anti

mason. He already seems to be sensible of their vengeance and influence in his County. We must then with a bold and determined resolution never to yield to their nefarious arts. They must-they shall be prostrated with the dirt. As for myself, I am resolved to prosecute the war, during my life, regardless of consequences-yield I never will, to such an infernal body. The introduction of the Cholera in England exhibits some alarm in this City, and vessels from that Country I am informed are ordered, by the City authorities under quarantine; but I fear this will prove ineffectual. Feeble are the efforts of man in staying the destructive maladies we must rely on higher power.

Wednesday 18. After the usual business the house resolved itself into a Committee of the whole, Mr. Blake of Boston in the Chair, on the question to alter the Constitution so as to reduce the representation in the House according to resolve of last session Mr. Charles Hudson of Westminster opened the debate-he dwelt some

on the impropriety of the districting system, and brot forward calculations to show the number of representatives under the proposed Alterations. Siad if the district plan was adopted it would unavoidably be necessary to embrace the system of electing by a plurality in the Commonweath. that he expected great opposition to the proposed amendment &c Dr. Brooks of Bernardston said a few words, which I could not distinctly hear.

Mr. Foster of Brimfield, then took the floor, and presented many objections to the amendment. Whether he is opposed to any reelection I could not determin. The Committee adjourned, reported progress and ask leave to sit again. Adjourned about ½ past one.

The arguments thus far [ ] go the strengthen my belief in the plan of a distant system, as the only one proper for our state. If the method of election by plurality is the necessary consequence of the system what then? I see no strong objection to this mode. The objection to the

distant plan arises from the consideration that many who are now elected as R. will be excluded from the House. By the amendment, the whole No. is not to exceed 350 members and this is clearly too large. At 2 Dollars per day the sum would equal 700 Dollars, to which add the pay of the Senate and all contingencies and about 1,000 dollars will be the per diem sum; and then  $\times 60 = 60,000$  dollars for a two months session, or 90,000 for 3 months what a monstrous expenditure for the Legislature of this little Commonwealth. The blessings of liberty are great; but when this liberty takes the food and clothing necessary for the support of the body, and reduces us to poverty, it may cost more than its real value, and we are no better than slaves. Let the question of reduction be submitted, in its real shape, to the people, and I think they would readily decide it, and without much argument. A reduction must take place sooner or later for the people will not submit to such an enormous and unnecessary waste of money

Thursday 19 After small business went into Committee of the whole, Mr. Blake in the Chair, on the amendment of the constitution. Mr. Marm of Dedham occupied the floor and opposed the amendment, and he demonstrated clearly that the small towns would be deprived of their constitutional rights that at least 100 thousand people would be deprived of their votes every two years, and that the scheme was in fact a destructive one, and unequal in every part. The committee reported progress and had leave to sit again.

On a report of a Committee for appointing Commissions to report a state of the Indians in the Commonwealth Mr. Thornton made a long speech in its favor, in which he dwelt upon the abuse this degraded race had, and was, suffering from the unjust laws of the state. He was replied to by gentleman whom I did not know. Mr. Blake moved that the Bill should lie upon the table which was carried. A Committee reported that the Clerk of the house should receive 10 Dollars per Day.

We have alarming news from Smyrna  
of the progress of the cholera at that place  
and a vessel is now in quarantine off  
our harbor from that port.

The weather is now very pleasant  
and the snow & ice melts fast, and renders  
the walking bad. Put papers into the  
mail for our paper.

A Lyceum lecture, at the Representatives  
chamber, this evening which I did not attend.

To be continued at the same place every  
thrusday evening during the session.

Friday 20. Reading of Bills & a  
debate arose on the appointment  
of an assistant Clerk and [     ]  
a resolve passed giving the chief Clerk  
10 dollars per day with the right  
to nominate an assistant to be approved  
by the Speaker, and paid by the  
Clerk.

Resolved into committee of the  
whole, Mr. Blake in C. on the  
amendment of Constitution.

Dr. Brooks of Bernardston took  
the floor and made a speech  
of some length, which covered some

[ ] and historical research, but not much judgment. He contended for corporate right much from the ancient practice both in England and this State;-- said the people in the Country would never submit to the district system, that those on its favor were looking to more elevated delegates-those who were by [ ] gentlemen, and fond of great schemes are dwelt upon the safety of men of good common sense for representation. I thought his arguments not weighty.

Mr. Sturgis of Boston then arose and in a speech of some length, opposed the amendment which he thought would not remedy the difficulty. Said if we adopt it we might rest assured no other would take place for a long time. He remarked upon several position of Mr. Brooks and regretted they had been advanced. In the debates that have been made I am uncertain whether the opposition of the amendment are against ~~opposed to~~

a reduction in any shape. In the course of setting memorials from several towns were read, generally in favor of an alteration of the constitution. Some proposed to reduce the number to 100 other to 150 by Districting the State. The day liberty granted to Mr. Some body to deliver a lecture in the Representative chamber this evening on what subject did not appear. It may be Masonic, and I think we ought to have inquired unto its nature before giving consent.

Saturday 21. After small business went into Committee of the whole on the Constitution Mr. Cushing of Dorchester spoke lengthy in favor of amendment- Said he was a new member- came from home undetermined, but had now [ ] to give his vote in affirmative-expressed his surprise at the apathy of many on the important question- hope the discussion would continue until all were satisfied Corporate rights he thought not of importance in the case- they had not been the principle of representation so long as Dr. Brook had stated-that the right to vote was inherent in all. He attempted

to show that the small towns would have an excess over the representation of the middling ones, and presented many calculations in support of his position. He acquitted himself handsomely.

Mr. Gardner of Roxbury, followed in reply and went largely into the imperfection of the Amendment. Remarked upon the district system, and [     ] not oppose the system of plurality involving if it should be found necessary and he raised many important arguments against the amendment.

He is a small man of no commanding appearance, but of a clear head, cool and collected, and a distinct speaker. The Committee adjourned with leave again to sit. It is my wish that the amendment should be rejected, and the District scheme brought forward for consideration; for certain I am that important objections can be raised against it. It would, if adopted, house a respectable and convenient body and lessen the enormous expense which the state now pays for its representation. But our country representatives look at the plan with jealousy.

Sunday 22 In afternoon attended Dr Lowells meeting. Under the meeting house is a large and convenient room filled up for Sunday Schools with windows in the upper part to give good light. It a fine room. Perused the 1<sup>st</sup> Vol of John ones Life of General Green. Plans of the Battles of Germantown & Cowpens are included in the volume They are too contracted and defective in not giving the topography of the adjacent country, and lacks sufficient references. I think his description of battles rather defective, but many of his remarks are judicious he however in some instances, varies from other historians and even contradicts them-Sometimes charges Col. Lee with inaccuracies and is often scarce on [ ] descriptions. The work on the whole is worthy of Perusal. In the appendix he gives a narrative of the campaign of 1780 by Col. Otho H Williams Adjutant Genl., containing much useful matter for Historians. The weather this day rather colder than several of the preceding days. By the papers I learn that Nutalls

is published and for sale at the Bookstore for \$3.50. 1 Vol-containing the birds of the US and Canada with plates. Major Hordynshaw work, is about to be printed.

Monday 23. After usual business dispatched, went again into committee of the whole, and had leave to sit again. Several Gentlemen spoke Mr Childs of Boston, at great length nearly all against the amendment. This day a motion made by Mr. Green of Boston that the Committee on the pay rolls should be directed not to allow members pay for the day they should attend the centennial celebration of Washingtons birth day. He said none had more veneration for that man than himself, but that we came to the Legislature to perform other business; & that he did not like to establish such a precedent-we might not be called to celebrate the birth of Hancock, Adams & others, and if we chose to spend our time thus, it might not be at the expense of our constituents-I thought his argument deserved consideration; but the motion was rejected with [ ] on the part of many And we saved our 2 Dollars.

It is now evening, and while visiting the fire bells of the city and peeling the alarms a light appears in Roxbury or Brookline. Since the present establishment of the fine department in the City, little alarm is occasioned by the fire ~~alarm~~ bells. By Mr. Howland and a letter from Isabelle we have the satisfaction to hear that all are well at home.

Tuesday 24 usual business—then in Committee of whole Mr. Barton of Oxford and Hobut of Lester occupied the whole of the time both in favor of the Amendment and able Mr Barton was not only able but eloquent—he went over nearly the whole ground; and if [ ] could establish the correctness of the proposed amendment his speech would have done it. He closed in a grave manner—[ ] his points and said we must purpose some thing of a reduction to the people, or they would send other men here who would accomplish that object. I think him the most elegant speaker I have yet heard on the subject.

Sent 20 lb Coffee to family by Mr.  
Howland and a Coffee Pot in a Bucket  
of [ ]—Examined the Catalogue of the  
Library in Congress, at our Library-Many  
rare works. Among them Parry's  
Nautical astronomy by Night 4to.  
Is this the Northern Navigation?  
A gentleman this day, show me a state  
ment of the time Genl. Washington became  
a mason, from which it appears he was  
initiated to the 1st degree 1752 and in 1753  
to the two next-taken from the records  
of the lodge where he entered, in Virginia  
or Maryland; and that he attended  
but a few times afterwards.  
Wednesday 25. Business as usual. In  
Committee of whole Mr. Tuftes of Dudley  
spoke it would have an equal effect  
After the speech the question was  
taken—for the amendment 257  
Against it----- 170  
87 [ ]

And tomorrow assigned for the acceptance  
of the report by yeas and nays.  
Recd. a Letter from Arthur—

In this decision I gave my vote for the amendment, but with considerable reluctance, under the impression that nothing better could be obtained. Had a districting system been proposed as a substitute I should have voted against the proposed amendment: and of the requisite number is not given to send out the question to the people shall advocate districting the State

Thursday 26. After the usual small business the question on the amendment of the Constitution was taken by yeas and nays-In favor of amendment 283

Against Do ----- 197

Total 480

Two thirds= 320

Votes in favor 283 (one third=160)

wanting 37 for the requisite vote

So the project is at an end for the present. What shall be done- will the people submit to the present representations We must not try the districting system, either large or small—By a resolution in the Senate it proposed to make districts for each representative provided no town divide be a

To me this plan is about as objectionable as the other, and it appears impossible. By adopting large Districts, say equal to our County, all the difficulties seem to vanish. Let the maximum be limited to 200 and we ~~our~~ shall have 9 with a fraction.

The weather this day is cold, the thermometer 4 above zero at 1 o'clock P.M. a great change, and our house begin to feel the effects, which they exhibit by almost incessant coughing, so as to interrupt business. Col. Stebbins I am this evening is in the City to go out tomorrow morn-have not seen him.

Friday 27 usual business of Bill, and petitions. Afternoon on Committee for abolishing or altering the 9<sup>th</sup> Art. of Constitution. Adjourned to meet at Lobby No 9 this day fortnight at ½ past 3 o'clock PM

In the evening heard an address by Mr. Hattel at merchants Hall on free masonry. It was convincing

exposition and delivered with great force and energy. He prove most clearly that the penalty of ~~masonry~~ Masonic oaths was death; and that the declarations of the Rhode Island masons that their penalties extended only to expulsion was a perfect absurdity, from their own books. A Committee consisting of myself, Justus Forward & Mr. Whitmarsh, at the Lamb Tavern, be a Committee to present a petition to the house for liberty to use the Representative chamber, since coming for the purpose of delivering a lecture on Masonry for diffusing important knowledge

Saturday 28. Common business done the bill for licensing taverns retailers & was brought up. H. Williams the Chairman explained the principles on which the bill had been framed, and the further discussion postponed to next week Mr. Williams acquainted himself handsomely and I saw no important objections to the Bill  
In the City there is a [     ] society

who hold their Sunday meetings at Juben's Hall and have lectures from a Mr. Knaland. Tomorrow evening a lecture is to be given on the pretended Book of Enoch, said to have been found by Bruce, the traveler, in Abasisga which had been lost 700 or 800 years. Deism seems of late years to have increased in the US. Is not this result of ~~of~~ the system called orthodoxy? I think this probable. When man of inquiring minds are told, by their spiritual guides, that this is the system of the Bible the absurdity is so shocking ~~great~~ to them, that they at once conclude the Book is false and without taking the pain to examine for themselves and bury unacquainted with a more rational scheme they rest in their unbelief. If ever Christianity becomes universal it must be by presenting it in such a view, as that it shall not appear hostile to pure science The Unitarian scheme seems to embrace these qualities and is now embraced by many men of sense and science.

Sunday 29. A Cold snowy day.  
remained at quarters and wrote Letters  
to Arthur and [     ]. Yesterday  
saw Mr. Stevens our trigonometrical sur-  
veyor at the State House, who seems to be  
eagerly engaged in his undertaking says  
he has just made a 2d Report to the  
Governor, more minute than the  
first. has been examining the country  
towards the S E Coast, for a base of verif  
ication, but has not found a good  
one. Perused the 2d vol of Johnsons Life  
of Green His plans are well engraved  
but as before too limited. I find in ad-  
dition to those already mentioned the  
Battle of Camden or Hobkirks hill the  
saga of Ninety six a map of Southern  
states and another smaller. Johnson  
appears hostile to Lee and conflicts  
with his details in many particulars.  
In the life of Green, as given by John-  
son, the birth of the position that  
republics are often guilty of ingratitude  
to their servants is shockingly evinced.  
This great and good officer found enemies  
in the Southern states, and after the  
close of the war was challenged to fight

by a Capt Gunn, which the general very properly refused. The difficulty arose from some conduct of Green while commander. What strange characters are those Southern men I would not, on any conditions reside among them. Green went armed after the challenge to protect himself against a personal attack from the fury.

Monday 30 Took up the Licens Bill (after some other small business) and debated on it some. No discussion. Bot Col. Willits narrative price 1 Dol. The Colonels services on the Mohawk, were not so various as I had supposed He was out in the Colonial war in 1758, under Abercrombie & in the attack on Ticonderoga; but the description is not very particular of the movements-Shared in the Battle of Monmouth. Recd Letters from Arthur & the map corrections. All well at home. This day very rainy and Streets full of water. Another proposition to alter the Constitution, so

that one half of the house, or a majority of them should decided to send it to the people. Submitted to our Committee

Tuesday 31 After the usual business of reading Bills and receiving petitions the Speaker made remarks upon a publication in Childs journal of last Saturday, in which he was censored for some decision he had made respecting order in the house. Mr. Childs replied at some length and was called to order, and the house seemed to be about to commence loggerheads. It was finally resolved to raise a Committee of 7 to investigate the affair, to be chosen tomorrow by ballot. To me it appeared like the trifling disputes that often arise among dualists respecting some ~~trifling~~ foolish points of honor, deserving no notice among men of sense. After the bustle we had considerable debating upon the License bill and former excitement was roused. The day the Governor communicated to both houses, the proceedings of Maine, in relation to their eastern boundary. They

deny the power of the US to cede any part of their state to Great Britain, and call on Massachusetts to take the same course. Mr. Coffin of the Land office says the line attempted to be established, will cut off 2,000,000 of acres of excellent land in favor of England, and does not see that she has any claim to it. I hope we shall not fight for it. Left Arthurs map with Pendleton.

Wednesday Feby 1. Debate upon the 3d Article of the Constitution, and choice of Committee to investigate the affair between the speaker and Mr. Childs, a member from Boston.

In the evening Arthur arrived very unexpectedly, on the business of Clark.

Thursday 2. This day a resolve introduced to abolish all hearings except the may inspections and submitted to a Committee of 11. Considerable debate on the subject in which it was agreed that as Congress were now about to take up the subject it was useless for the States By other it was

said this was the old Song, but they had done nothing of late and therefore would not at the present session Mr Shary of Pittsfield treated the militia system with severity and ridicule and met a sharp reply by Mr. Phillips of Salem who was one of the joint Committee on the militia. He with considerable facility in speaking seems to think he can carry projects by brow beating his antagonist. After the debating the License law or Bill was taken up and Mr. Marm spoke at some length. I left the house before he ended.

Friday 3 Debate upon the License Bill Mr Man and the Mr Blake, No questions taken. Saw Mr. Stevens who made some excuses for his report in regard to his assistants. said he wrote in a hurry and should soon make another report in which he would give a different statement if necessary. But this is rather improbable.

Saturday 4- Debates upon the  
License bill no question taken-  
Resolved to meet at 9 o'clock [ ]  
Procured the 34 N Encyclopedia &  
paid 4 Dollars—Bought 2 pamphlets, 45 cents  
concerning Oregon Territory. Arthur  
set out for home in the morning.

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Snow storm all day  
kept at home. Examined the art.  
Thermo Electricity on Electromagnetism  
a new subject. The principle laid  
down is that the magnetical effect  
of the electrical current has a circu  
lar motion round-it. Many curious  
facts are laid down upsetting the  
electrical current through various  
metals and its operation upon  
the needle of the compass, which may  
account for some strange anomalies  
sometimes observed; and which show  
the extreme difficulty of making accu  
rate surveys with the magnetic needle  
To the effect of wagon wheels passing by  
my compass, as I have observed, be ex-  
plained upon the principles laid down  
in this article! The writer closes with

this remark “The new discoveries in short reveal to us the world of secret motions whose laws are probably analogous to those of the universe, and which deserve to be the subjects of our most current meditations”<sup>1</sup>

By a couple of Pamphlets relating to the Oregon Country which I procured it appears a project is on foot to form a company of immigrants for that Country next spring. They are to rendezvous at St. Louis and proceed over land to Country, and form settlements on the Columbia River. They want some aid from Congress in the outfit. The Country is represented as very fertile and the climate much more mild than in corresponding Latitudes on the eastern coast of N America. The Indians are represented as numerous, which is an unfavorable circumstance to the proposed emigration.

Examined also Perrys 2d Voyage, an edition without plates maps- adapted

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<sup>1</sup> From “Thermo-Electricity” in *Edinburgh Encyclopaedia* by David Brewster. Vol. 17, p. 715-732.

Monday 6 Debate on the License  
law H Williams made a good  
speech in favor and besides strong  
reasons offered, gave Mr Mann  
a pretty severe dressing. The motion  
to strike out the enacting clause  
failed and the Bill was re  
committed to the old Committee  
From the remarks which have  
been made on the subject of the  
Bill I am led to doubt whether  
any benefit has or can arise  
in the cause of ~~intemperance~~, from  
any Legislative enactment. The  
cause of ~~intemperance~~ must be  
sustained by the exertions making  
to render drinking disreputable,  
and not by force, or compulsion  
But it is said lesson the facilities for  
procuring ardent spirits and you  
lessen the quantity drunk. which others  
say legalize the sale and it will  
be used as much as if all might  
deal in it—All will procure as  
much as they want. If more  
engage in the business than can  
find a profit, they will abandon

the business and buy something else for a living! If the evils of intemperance are as great as is pretended, than say some, prohibit its distillation and Importation and thusly cut off the source of the evil. On the whole I am in favor of the Bill, with a few modifications; and think it embrace all the checks and restraints of the old laws now scattered through our Statute Books, which cannot be understood but by a long and laborious research.

Tuesday Debates on the License Bill, which was referred to the Committee with additions. After the look up The third article of the Constitution Speaker Buckinham and Hobart and another A Bill for abolishing all training reported, providing for one day by Companies. If this is not contrary to art of Congress, it is the proper step to be taken

Wednesday 8- Debates on 3d Article of Constitution. Speakers Blake against and others for Amendments proposed Laid on the table for further discussion. New Petition brot forward.

Thursday 9. Acting on 3d Article of Con. Amendments proposed and sent back to Committee or proposed to be. Some for abolishing the article Accepted the report of Committee on the Lynn Election by which the members [     ] their seals. In debate this day on the question of amendment I witness a procedure which I did not expect in the House Mr. Hobart an aged and respectable member, while speaking was put down by the disgraceful noise from coughing & shuffling of the members in various parts of the House. This took place in Massachusetts, the boasted country of steady habits & of moral & religious perfection. Talk no more of N York corruption & lobby members. This is the fruit of our 530 representatives, to guard the rights and privileges of the people, at the rate of 1500 dollars per day. Shameful conduct and a shun upon our State. Sent a letter to Arthur by mail. A stormy day of snow.

On the mode of doing business in the Legislature, much may be said. Whether the practice is the best I know not, and perhaps I ought not to condemn or approve with my short experience; and whether any erroneous practice can be rendered, with the present numerous representation is doubtful of one thing I am certain which is that business is sometimes transacting in the House of which the majority know little or nothing. A petition is presented without a reading, ~~presented~~ handed to a Committee who report against the prayer and is [ ] by a vote so called of the house, at the same time the contents of the paper is wholly unknown to all except the Committee. The practice ought to be to read all positions in the house before they go to a Committee to see whether it will sustain them.

Friday 10 The Committee to whom it was recommended reported a few Amendments to the proposed alteration of the 3d Article of Constitution which was agreed to The question

was then taken by yeas and nays  
and the results was as follows

Yeas --- 347

Nays--- 90

Total    437

Two thirds =  $297 \frac{1}{3}$  & therefore a constitution vote for amendment

The Report of the Committee on the Petition of Amherst College was then taken up and Mr Fuller of Boston took the floor and delivered a speech against it. He contended that the College was not required by the people of the state, as we already had two, that the Charter was given at the request of a few gentlemen who had established an institution on their own reasons with the avowed declaration that the State was not to come under obligations to give any subsequent aid and that if they had incurred debts they could not discharge they had no reasonable demands on the State He touched upon the means

they had practiced to introduce religious excitement in the college, by making a distinction between students who were hopefully pious and those who were not—Such a distinction as he should not be willing to have his children submit. He did not wish to dictate to them their religious notions, but if they were taught to the students they could not expect to be aided by the government of the State. He remarked upon their implied threats to appeal to the people if we refused to grant them the required aid, and upon their declaration that they relied upon their merits. His speech was delivered with a considerable mildness, and good nature; and on the whole, I think, he acquitted himself handsomely. The amount of the case stands as follows. A party of orthodox gentlemen hostile to Cambridge College got up a scheme to establish an opposition College at Amherst. They procured a [     ] subscription which the said

sufficient to support the institution and asked the Legislature for a charter to enable them to manage their funds declaring at the same time that this was all they wanted. Having obtained this they went on to construct their buildings according to the style of other Colleges, and thusly contracted debts beyond their power to pay, with their deceptive funds, no doubt with the belief that after the College ~~would~~ had got in operation, they might dip into the purse of the Commonwealth to defray their expenses. Having thus created a demand upon the Commonwealth they were confident they should not be refused the sum they wanted, and thus they should establish their College on firm ground in opposition to the will of the people. Now suppose another party was to use the same means to establish a College in any other part of the state, should we not be bound to [ ] it on the same ground and principles as those [ ] by this Amherst Col

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> Various business as usual such as reading bills & presenting petitions. Among the latter presented one from Sundry Gentlemen of the City of Boston prayin liberty to occupy the Representatives chamber on the evening of the 17<sup>th</sup> of February current, to hear a Lecture on masonry. This brought up the monster and its faithful supporters, the blond Jacks, and for some time the attempt was made to beat down the petition by ridicule. But several gentlemen entered the field of debate, in favor of the petition, and the opposers soon found that a refusal would operate unfavorably to the cause of masonry, and some Gentlemen of the order spoke in favor of the Petition. On taking the vote a large majority were formed who thought best to grant the request. Mr. Hallit is to deliver the lecture, and I am mistaken if he does not convert some of the Jacks.—In conversation with Mr. Shaw of Lanesboro, he informed me that he once took the first

degree of masonry and that he was so disgusted with it that he abandoned it at once—that he was the first soldier in Massachusetts—that he had never failed to speak of it on he thought and finally that it was the darnedest nonsense that he ever saw—This is coming home to the point at once; and like every man of sense he owns it in plain language. Some time after I saw several masons abort his pension, in close conversation I know not, whether they will Morganize him.

Sunday 12 Rainy—Staied at home In the afternoon Mr. Bordan called on us and spent the afternoon. Had much conversation upon the Trigonometical Survey. Seems to understand its principles. Expects to go with Mr. Stevens next summer if he will give him 900 dollars per year. He is a self taught man and I presume an ingenious [     ]. Very Liberal in his sentiments on religion—Thinks the Clergy have an undue influence

on society and that Mr. Chauncy is the only rational clergyman he ever saw. A warm antimason and understand all the twisting and turnings of masonry. Read Mr. Hunts Letters on the western Country—He was a Clergyman who went from this part of the country I suppose a Missionary and afterwards took up his residence at Cinanatia In his Geography much is extracted from his Letters.

Monday 13—Fine & pleasant weather Debates up the Report to Amend College on motion of Mr. Foster, the sum reduced to 25,000 dollars. He made a long speech in favor of that grant. In reply Dr. Brooks took up the subject and [ ] severely on the college-said it was not wanted by the public, nor was a college education very important. We have many imminent men who obtained their knowledge otherwise-School which qualified men for business were what was wanted by the Country. Mr. Buckingham also spoke up the subject and proposed the importance of the grant, because a good

Education might be obtained at Amherst at a lower rate than at Cambridge. But the College at Williamstown had it occurred to his mind would have done away all of his arguments.

Tuesday 14-Debate on the Amherst College Petition. Mr Bliss of Springfield in favor-Dr. Brooks against and Mr Speaker Calhoun in favor. The speech of the last was candid and went to show that the College was respectable and no more sectarian than others Said all were sectarian in a degree and that every member in the house was so also. In the course of his remarks he paid a great compliment to Professor Hitchcock for this scientific knowledge which he had displayed in his geological Survey of the Commonwealth To all this gentleman said, I readily agree; but am far from liking that we ought to grant the 25,000 dollars as proposed. How is this money to be raised, when there is a deficit in the revenue of the Commonwealth of           Dollars for 1832. It is

by a direct tax of 100,000 dollars on the people of the Commonwealth, and this sum will be found too low. Was our treasury rich the case could stand on a different point of view, but even in this case we have many objects on which we ought to [ ] it in performance to the Colleges.

In the afternoon the Bills of the City [ ] the alarm of fire and we saw the smoke ascending in columns to the eastward of our house. I soon repaired to the spot, and found the upper part of Court Street on fire and had a fair view of the operations of the fire engines. Two were stationed near the building on fire from which their hoses were carried into the chamber windows and delivered streams of water. Extending from these eastward through Court Street to reservoir of water on State Street, below the old State House, were a dozen or more engines at work. By one engine the water is raised from the reservoir, by suction and forced on to the [ ] in the hose laid along the street; thence to another, and so

until the water is [ ] into the engines playing on the fire; by which it may be carried to great distance I had supposed the water was brought to the delivering engines by suction as it is improperly called; but I have found my mistake In elevation of more than 32 feet this would be impossible; but by the method adopted, the water may be carried to much greater heights and perhaps to all parts of the City The Museum, I suppose, sustained considerable damage, but the roof was sound and did not fall in, and the lower rooms appeared uninjured. How the fire look I could not learn. During the operation of the engines, though the throng of people was great, I found no confusion or unnecessary noise. Note ladder were used in ascending to the upper story.

Wednesday 15. After an ingenious speech of Mr. Fuller against, and Mr. Pomroy of Stockbridge & Mr. Speaker in favor of the Amherst petition, the question was taken and divided by a large majority that it be in definitely postponed. This produced some

excitement among the friends of the Petition but the majority was firm. I think the question was not decided from any pre judice against the College in consequence of their former management, but from the low state of the Treasury. We must now borrow to discharge our own debts, and we think we cannot do this for those of Amherst. It is time to stop grants of all kinds except those which are absolutely necessary.

Thursday 16. The principal part of sitting was spent upon the amended Bill relating to the License Law. An attempt was made to reconnect it to the Committee on the Judiciary, upon the ground that it was not agreed to by a majority of the revising Committee. The Debates were warm and severe and some personalities were introduced. Henry Williams displayed his talents with thunder, upon Mr. Mann. Mr. Phillips & a member from Newbury Port Mr Shaw took the floor in support Williams, and gave the opposing gentlemen some close cuts, in his usual mild but forcible manner

The Bill was finally laid upon the table and ordered to be printed by a strong majority. Shaw I think, is one of the most powerful men in the house; Hie is cool as a cucumber, and presents his argument with great mildness, but still with a cutting severity; but he is always listened to with great attention. Phillips is a fire brand and though possessed of some talent, he soon disgusts the hearers by his aristocratic manner. Mann is something of a speaker, but assumes too much of the quibbling Lawyer. Mr. Blake spoke on the subject, but with great vehemence. He has talent, but labors excessively in his arguments which in some measure destroys their effect.—The proposed amendment of the 0<sup>th</sup> art. of the Con. was next taken up with a substitute by Mr Tufton of Dudley. A proposition was this day made to endow all the Academies in the state which I conclude was a ruse de guerre<sup>2</sup> to defeat any grant, for any literary institution

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<sup>2</sup> A French saying, translating to “ruse of war.”

Friday 17 Business not very important  
it consisting of various subjects and some  
thing (I believe) on the Alteration of the 9<sup>th</sup>  
Art. of Constitution. In the evening Mr  
Hallit delivered an excellent address on  
Masonry in the Representatives Hall which  
was crowded to the brim and several 100s  
could not enter. He successfully demon  
strated the evil nature of Masonic oaths  
from the Masonic works or Books, attested  
by their great Grand High Preists and  
other officers; and the audience large  
as it was, listened more than 2 hours  
with breathless silence to the discourse  
At the close a vote was carried by  
a large Majority requesting Mr Hallit  
to repeat the address at some future  
time. It is thought that it had a  
most salutary effect, and some who  
had attended but a little to the sub  
ject, expressed their surprise at the  
developments made by Mr Hallitt  
The remarks made upon the "1200"  
masons were judicious and forcible  
and he challenged Masons to come for  
us and in defense of their Institution  
and to do it in the Representative Room

for which purpose they should  
have his consent. This I trust they  
dare not do-nor can they with  
all their finesse suppose inquiry into  
their system of folly and wickedness  
Saturday 18. Usual small business  
Some debating on the License bill—The  
Amendment proposed by the minority  
Committee laid on the table and ordered  
to be printed. Much Stratagem is used  
to defeat the original Bill; but a  
majority seem to be in its favor. This  
day a committee raised to report  
when the Legislature may rise &  
to examine the expediency of an  
adjourned session.

Sunday 19. Stormy kept house.

Monday 20. Rainy- Small business in  
the house

Tuesday 21- Various small business  
adjourned to 9 oclock tomorrow

Wednesday 22. Usual business in  
the morning. Took up Vans Petition  
on Bill. Some spirited remarks

Adjourned at noon to attend the ceremony  
of the day-the Washington centennial.  
Marched in procession by a circuitous  
course to old South and heard the  
Oration of Francis C Gray-2 ½ hours  
long. Nearly all the uniformed cops  
were out as well as the engines of the  
City. The troops are in general su-  
perbly dressed and handsomely Armed  
and present every thing but fitness  
for fighting. They are generally young  
men of handsome appearance, ~~many~~  
some Companies armed with rifles  
the officers covered with epauletts.  
The appearance of the troops is just  
calculated to charm those who mis-  
take appearances for realities. My  
heart would bleed to see them  
chosen up to oppose the [     ]  
~~regular~~ troops of regular armies  
before whom they would vanish  
like the fog in a morning ~~before the~~ sun. Granting  
them all the spirit essential to  
make soldiers, they could act in  
concert in larger bodies, and then  
discipline would be found as nothing  
when death [     ] them in the [     ]

Thursday 23 Took up the valuation Bill. much debating on the subject Many Statements made by members concerning the operations they had gone through It appeared they had performed much labor, and yet there was some doubt as to the equality of the results. Some Counties have been “doomed” to consider able amounts and property seems to have been differently estimated in different counties. The Report on the case of Mr Speaker and Mr Childs was made, by which the latter was decided to have been out of order, and is required to apologise The report was laid upon the Table We commence two sitting sessions in a day this Day, which is rainy.

Friday 24- Debate upon adjournment supposed to be necessary on account of the failure of Congress to pass on the apportionment Laws. Resolve land upon the table After which took up Mr Phillips amendment to the License Law. Mr Phillips delivered a long speech in its favor Afternoon followed by Mr Foster & Blake against it, and Mr Parish of

Newbury port in favor. The house became impatient and tried to stop him, but at length he finished his remarks, and the question was taken on the amendment and negatived. The 2d Bill is now to be discussed. During the latter debate there was some confusion in the house and Mr Parish though he discoursed considerable talent was almost driven from his ground. The Bill in favor of Mr Vans was passed to be [     ]. This causes considerable excitement in some & the Newspapers do not spare the house. An attempt was made to decide the question by yeas and nays, but it failed. I suppose this was to intimidate the friends of the Bill, but we were not alarmed. If the Estate of Cockman owes Van then let the proper Court determine the [     ] and not us.

Saturday 25. Reading Bills &c. Took up the License Bill and nearly finished it. Some small amendment proposed and adjourned without taking the question (main). Throughout the whole proceeding on the Bill H Williams (the Chairman) had exerted himself in its favor with much ability.

and put to nought the finesse and stratagems of certain [ ] opposed to it. The Bill appears to me to guard all the avenues to vice & immorality resulting from a use of Spirits, in as full and ample a manner as the old laws, without their ambiguity and labor of hunting up in musty Volumes And is a codification of them which may be understodd by common sense.

In the State Library I find 3 Vols of the newhampshire Historical Society containing useful matter, and among the rest Penhollows Indian Wars a scarce work—Also 22 Vols of the Massachusetts Historical Society. The 1<sup>st</sup> 20 make two [ ]. the third is of course commenced. The work contains a find of matter for Historians.

Sunday 26 Fine fair Day. Attended meeting afternoon. Mr. Barrit preached at Dr Lowell's House. Barrett is a cable tow.

Monday 27. Entered Arthurs map at the Clerks office of District Court & paid 1 Dollar- Passed the License Bill by yeas & nays and debated the proposed alteration of 9<sup>th</sup> Article of the Constitution. A great variety

of opinions on the subject. It appears impossible to make any alteration and I think Massachusetts is in a pitiful situation. The people must rouse and drive their Representatives to the task or we shall be ruined. Bought Crabbs Dictionary of Knowledge 9/  
Tuesday 28. Tax Bill brought up and discussed—In general opposed to a State Tax, because we have money in the treasury, but which is loaned to Banks—Afternoon small business & Lowell Rail Road Day snow and rain- very warm in the house Recd Deerfield paper in the evening. no important news but good matter  
Wednesday 29 Debate on adjournment but postponed—Some small business respecting rail ways- Afternoon Bill on the punishment of Death brot up but no decision  
Thursday  
March 1 Spent the day on the Report of the Committee on the Childs breach of orders-Afternoon Childs began his defense, a most able one it is—This day leave obtained to use the Representatives Chamber next Tuesday evening to hear Mr Hallits address. Sent 100 maps to Arthur by Col Wilson

Friday 2. Day spent on the Childs affair—decided at 7 o'clock P.M. as dis-respectful to the Speaker and the house & deserving the censure of the house.

Mr. Childs made a most able defence and evinced much baring & research into parliamentary procedure. A decision in favor of Childs would I think have produced a resignation of the Speaker, but this had no influence with me—It was agreed by some that we had no right to punish a member for conduct not of the house and that we might touch the freedom of the press by such procedure. But to one it appeared that if an Editor while a member was not at liberty to libel the house with impunity. Other Editor face the same offence might be amenable to another tribunal.

Saturday 3. Usual small business and amendments to the Bill on licenses—passed to be engrossed in a new draught- Day very pleasant

Sunday 4- Attended Dr Lowells  
meeting in the afternoon

Monday 5. Bills read as usual. Took  
up the Bill on the abolishment of Capit  
ol punishments and finally gave it an  
indefinite postponement. It was attempted  
to make treason, murder & arson capitol;  
and other high crimes, such as Robbery  
Rape and burglary punishable for life.  
Some denied the right to put to death in  
any case whatever. But to me it appeared  
plain that the right [ ] to punish might  
be proved from first principles even  
without scripture. Thus I have a right  
to kill to save my own life, and two  
three and any number have the same  
right under similar circumstances, and  
so of the whole community. If however  
the community ~~have~~ upon principals  
of humanity choose to imprison the  
offender for life, they may do it at  
their expense, but they are not compelled  
to do this by any natural law or obli  
gation. It may be human to imprison  
the culprit and try to reform him but  
to compel the people to support him  
in prison for the purpose is an infringe

ment of rights. If a man steals my property and thereby renders it impossible to sustain myself and family, and there be no law to prevent the injury I see not why I may not kill him to defend it; and if so the community have the same right. If this is done it is from humanity and not because the right of the offender require it.

Tuesday 6. May Bills past  
Evening address, by Hallit on masonry a full house, who seemed to feel the subject Mr. Peerpont present I think a good antiman (?).

Wednesday 7. Sundry business of various kinds

Thursday 8. Usual business & a private Sitting- gallons [     ]  
deales on Imprisonment for Debt.

Friday 9—Debates on Imprisonment for Debt-Bot a book on Cholera Morbus 4/6 & Battle at Concord (?) 1/7

Saturday 10 On imprisonment for debt and [     ] Lesson. Adjourned to 10 oclock Monday next.

Sunday 11. Remained at home, perusing a work on the Cholera Morbus (French). In the work the [ ] hint is given, found on many circumstances, that the disease will not reach France. But its progress in England, [ ] against the supposition. A report says the disease has reached [ ] in Floraday, but is doubted. In conversation with Mr. John Biglow of Boston yesterday, he declared to me that he was not and never should be a knight templar. that he considered that order as a corruption of Masonry, and was desirous of having a paragraph in Hallets paper which make it appear that he was present & partook of the ceremonies connected. This I communicated to Mr Hallet. Thus for Mr. Biglow very well. Go on Sir and abandon the whole system.

Monday 12- Warm rainy Morn- Some thunder An arrival last night brings intelligence that the Cholera had reached Edinburgh. News to Feby 6<sup>th</sup> [ ] sitting, which will probably be divulged soon.

Afternoon took up the Bill giving Charles ton power to regulate the burial of the Dead

It appears a Roman Catholic Bishop has purchased a tract of land on Bunker Hill and intends after consecrating it to use it for a burying ground for his faithful followers. This is objected to by Charleston and they ask for a law to empower them to regulate the location of such grounds, in a manner similar to Boston. The Catholics are not willing to be buried with heretics or in their yards and all who die in this part of the Country are to be brought to Bunker hill. In case of contagious disorders the Charleston people think this would be ~~disasters~~ dangerous and that they have no right to do it. It is said on the other side that they have a right to follow their religious notions without molestation &c. To me it appears that where religion becomes too whimsical it is time to hold a little check upon toleration. If the Catholics choose to live among us, they must give up some of their notions and not consider themselves an entire & separate people and us more heretics.

Tuesday 13. The Gov. having communicated that the Legislature of Main had taken off their injunction of Secrecy, we opened our doors and gallows and the matter on which we had acted was laid open to the people. The subject related to the eastern boundary of Main. It seems that State had consented to the establishment of the boundary of the King of the Nether lands probably for a remuneration and the question was with us why ~~the~~ we should send an agent to Washington to guard & see to our rights The Senate passed a resolve for that purpose which we did not concur in; but authorized the Gov. to employ ~~the~~ our Senators & Representatives in Congress for that purpose.

Much Debate had on the Bid for abolishing imprisonment for debt but the house appeared to be opposed to the measure. A little time will correct the error.

Wednesday 14- Various business among others the Bill for abolishing [      ]; and on the occasion I ventured once speech of some length, which supposed to have some effect, and I received

(Note A. Astronomical Instruments furnished for Capt. Franklin Expedition  
Two small sextants, 2 artificial horizons, 2 altitude instruments, a repeating circle for lunar observation & a small transit telescope for ascertaining the rates of the chronometers. Besides a dipping needle, a plain needle very deliberately fitted for the diurnal variation; 2 of Katins azimuth compasses and a pocket compass for each officer Atmospheric instruments 2 electrometers, 2 of Daniel's hygrometers, Leslie's photometer and hygrometer, besides a good supply of mercurial & spirit thermometers of different sizes  
Suns alt measured by bringing its upper limit to the top of the land 4 miles distant the elevation of which had been ascertained to be 8 minutes, and the other to its base, the [ ] of which was 2 minutes. The mean of both observations corrected for refraction by the tables gave a result of  $65^{\circ}.11' 56''$  N Lat at fort Franklin. The alt. taken from the frozen surface of Bear Lake)

compliments from sundry Gentlemen for its execution. M Blake told me it was elegant or eloquent-others said I had carried the bill without doubt. At six oclock the question was taken and carried to be engrossed by a large matority not worth slandry the opposition of most of the members of Boston.

Thursday 15. Bills vs Hawks [ ] be discussed and indefinitely postponed. I spoke on the subject quoted the laws in existence & remarked upon the Bill.

Friday 16- Bankrupt System brot on and discussed- Spoke short on the subject. Adjourned without a decision  
Elijah Williams around at Boston  
Antimasonic meeting at State house

Saturday 17. Bill on the insolvent Debtors discussed and lost 105 to 233. a good Bill, by which an honest man might pay his debts without great cost. Said a few words upon it.